

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Reverend Randy Scott – Pentecostals of Southlake

ROLLCALL: Mrs. Barron was absent, all other member were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Dr. Lux spoke on the topic of school reform in Indiana, in the form of school choice, in respect to charter schools. The discussion was not geared towards concern of teachers or people that work in charter schools or private schools rather concept of charter schools and school vouchers, the improvement of education, at the expense of public education. Dr. Lux encouraged the Town Council to make a statement to take a stand on the fact that Charter schools have not been proven, and until they can demonstrate that Charter schools can be more successful until the state can find a way to fund school more properly so that Merrillville schools aren't going to have to turn around and ask for a referendum. All surrounding schools in the area are passing referendum; they are raising fees. Merrillville needs a strong public school system that is properly funded. The state needs to support public schools at the level it needs to be supported, financially and not be diluting it and diverting public money to Charter schools and vouchers.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval May 13, 2014. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2014. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and seconded Mr. Goralczyk. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Spring Cleanup is still in progress. Pothole repair is still continuing. Mrs. Miano read a letter from a resident regarding Merrillville streets.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Goralczyk noted code enforcement is on the high. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to advertise for a part-time code enforcer for 24 hours a week to be paid \$12.00/hr. application deadline is before the next council meeting. Mr. Goralczyk stated the employee can be paid out of the noxious weeds fund. Mr. Spann seconded. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Arbor Day activities have been rescheduled. During this period Mr. Hardaway left the Town Council meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake is at an annual conference sponsored by IDEM. Residents are reminded to order their Rain Barrels; they are \$51.00 if ordered by mail and \$53.50 if ordered online. Information is also available on Town of Merrillville website. Deadline for any republican interested in applying for the Stormwater Management Board is May 23, 2014; letters of interest should be addressed to Town Council President and mailed to the Town Administrators Office. The two recycle benches that Merrillville received from Lake County Solid Waste are scheduled to be installed on Saturday May 24, 2014; a ceremony will take place this date.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit stated that redevelopment met there is a resolution and/or ordinance to establish a redevelopment authority for the Ameriplex bond issue refinance. Redevelopment will reconvene in two weeks to discuss IEDC's project called Project Eagles.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No Report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-14: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the Parks non-reverting program fees for the Year 2014. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 14-15: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Donation fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2014 not included in

the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 14-16: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 14-01 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2014. Mr. Goralczyk mad a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 14-18: An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, establishing the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment authority. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Spann. Mr. Goralczyk stated that he wanted to appoint the Economic Development persons to this committee, Gene Ward, Julie Olthoff, John Minichuk. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-13: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Noxious Weed Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Widing. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 14-13: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana approving real property tax abatement on property located within an economic revitalization area. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Goralczyk. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

Res. 14-14: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring additional monies within the Town of Merrillville, Court Probation, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2014. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

Res. 14-15: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring additional monies within the Town of Merrillville, Town Court General Fund, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2014. Mr. Spann made a motion to approved and seconded by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Station 2 on Taft Street needs plumbing and flooring repair. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion that the Town waives the permit fees for the work that needs to be done; inspection fees will still be paid. Mr. Widing seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environmental Resource Committee, May 15, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Plan Commission Meeting, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, May 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Miano- President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer